

February 13, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

The MiLW Blog: Hathaway's law license suspended

"Former Michigan Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway, P 39999, has been subjected to an automatic interim suspension of her law license under the Michigan Court Rules. The Attorney Discipline Board has issued a Notice of Automatic Interim Suspension."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Schuette files appeal in case against ex-McCotter aides

"Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette is appealing the dismissal of felony conspiracy charges against two aides to former U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Mich., in connection with a scandal over fraudulent nominating petitions. Schuette said in a news release Tuesday that he had filed an appeal with the Michigan Court of Appeals over dismissals granted Jan. 18 by Wayne County Circuit Judge Margie Braxton."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Hometown Life Newspapers: Schuette appeals dismissal of felony charges against former McCotter staffers

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Attorney general appeals dismissal of conspiracy charges against Thad McCotter aides in forgery scandal

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Judge overrules Pontiac emergency manager on pensions

"An Oakland County judge ruled against Pontiac's emergency manager today over the operations of the city's retiree pension board. Judge Rae Lee Chabot upheld a preliminary injunction filed by the pension board for the city's retired employees against emergency manager Lou Schimmel, who, in December, cut the pension board from 11 members to five."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Clampdown on man's Facebook page raises free-speech worries in McDonald's halal case

"In another twist to a contentious issue in Dearborn's Muslim community over whether McDonald's sold non-halal meat that was advertised as halal, the judge overseeing the controversial settlement with the restaurant has ordered a Dearborn attorney to remove all references to the matter from a Facebook page he created."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Associated Press: Judge orders lawyer to remove Facebook comments

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Crain's Detroit Business.

Detroit Free Press: MADD, judges: Don't increase Michigan's BAC limit to .10%

"It's a no-brainer, say police, judges and Mothers Against Drunk Driving. They're advocating for the state to keep its drunken-driving limit at 0.08% — which appears likely. Unless the Legislature takes action before Oct. 1, the limit will return to 0.10%."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

MLive.com: MADD to lawmakers: Michigan's drunken driving threshold should stay at .08 blood alcohol level

[Full story](#)

WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit: MADD calls on lawyers to keep Michigan's BAC law at .08 percent to prevent drunk driving

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Former John Doe's sister to return to court over allegations she took his benefits checks

"Janine Williams stood in Wayne County Probate Court on Tuesday and told a judge that her family was ready for her brother to come home. Williams is expected to be back in court next month -- this time because she is accused of stealing about \$32,000 of her disabled brother's Social Security payments that were made while he lived in an adult foster care home under the name John D108 Doe because his real identity wasn't known."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Oakland County ends challenge to lesbian couple's fight against same-sex marriage ban

"The Oakland County Clerk's Office ended its challenge [Tuesday] to a lawsuit filed by a lesbian couple fighting to overturn Michigan's ban on same-sex marriage.... [April DeBoer Rowse and Jayne Rowse] filed a lawsuit in federal court last year against former Oakland County Clerk Bill Bullard, Gov. Rick Snyder and Attorney General Bill Schuette, asking U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman to declare unconstitutional the state's constitutional amendment banning sex-same marriages."

[Full story](#)

Bay City Times: Bay County medical marijuana grower laments Michigan Supreme Court's ruling on dispensaries

"The Michigan Supreme Court's recent ruling that the sale of medical marijuana is illegal is akin to the state shooting itself in the foot, in the eyes of one Bay County marijuana grower.... The state Supreme Court, in a 4-1 decision, ruled medical marijuana dispensaries are illegal, though patients can donate money to their assigned caregiver."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Bay City Times: Bay and Saginaw counties see more people using medical marijuana

[Full story](#)

Flint Journal: Burton officials tell dispensaries to end patient-to-patient transfers, marijuana product sales

[Full story](#)

Gaylord Herald Times: Prosecutor, owners react to medical pot ruling

[Full story](#)

Court Manager: The Winner of the 2012 G. Thomas Munsterman Award for Jury Innovation

"This past summer, the National Center for State Courts had the most competitive pool of nominees for the G. Thomas Munsterman Award for Jury Innovation since the award was created in 2008.... The advisory committee that selects the winner spent several long mornings discussing the merits of each and

genuinely struggled to identify a single nominee worthy of the honor. Ultimately, the committee selected the Michigan Supreme Court and its committee of 12 trial judges who pilot-tested a number of proposed rules designed to improve juror performance and satisfaction."

Note: No link available. The article is available by subscription only.

Detroit Legal News: Holiday Hours

"The Third Circuit Court Civil and Family Divisions will be closed on Monday, Feb. 18, in observance of President's Day. In observance of President's Day, the 36th District Court will be closed to the public on Monday, Feb. 18. Only criminal arraignments will be conducted."

[Full story](#)

Flint-Genesee County Legal News: Beware jury duty scam phone calls, e-mails, State Court Administrator warns

"It may sound official – and intimidating: you receive a phone call or e-mail claiming to be from a local court and telling you that you missed jury duty. There is a bench warrant out for your arrest and you face 30 days in jail, but the so-called 'court' offers you a way out: pay \$500 by credit card."

[Full story](#)

Jackson Citizen Patriot: Judge reduces sentence of Amanda Ball, in prison for delivering fatal dose of heroin to Andrew Hirst

"Following a Court of Appeals decision, a judge on Wednesday, Feb. 13, reduced the prison sentence of a woman who in May 2010 delivered a fatal dose of heroin to 24-year-old Andrew Hirst. Jackson County Circuit Judge [John McBain] sentenced Amanda Ball, 21, to four years, nine months to 15 years in prison for manslaughter. In December 2010, McBain sent Ball to prison for five years, 11 months to 15 years, but the Court of Appeals in June 2012 ordered her to be re-sentenced."

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Grand Rapids lawyer will co-chair state bar's Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee

"... [Rodney] Martin, who is the diversity partner at his firm, will serve a one-year term as co-chair of the 17-member committee with Michigan Appellate Court Judge Cynthia D. Stephens of Detroit."

[Full story](#)

Press & Guide/Dearborn: DEARBORN: Federal court trying to increase diversity on its juries

"When a judge seats a jury they want it to be reflective of the communities they serve. Meeting that goal has been a challenge, which is why three federal judges were part of a panel discussion titled 'Why Diversity Matters and the Importance of Jury Service' last Wednesday at the Lebanese American Heritage Club."

[Full story](#)

SBM Blog: Governor Seeks Applicants for Muskegon Circuit Vacancy

"The Governor is seeking applications from qualified members of the bar for a judgeship in the 14th Circuit Court, Muskegon County. The retiring judge is the Hon. John C. Ruck. The application deadline is March 7, 2013."

[Full story](#)

SBM Blog: Governor Seeks Applicants for Midland Circuit Court Vacancy

"The Governor is seeking applications from qualified members of the bar for a judgeship in the 42nd Circuit Court, Midland County. The retiring judge is the Hon. Jonathan E. Lauderbach. The application deadline is March 7, 2013."

[Full story](#)

SBM Blog: In Memoriam: Hon. William A. Porter

"William A. Porter, of Gaylord, died Feb. 7, at the age of 72. A 1968 graduate of Wayne State Law School, he had been elected Otsego County prosecutor and judge of the 87th district court before becoming judge of the 46th circuit court at the age of 32. Judge Porter retired from the bench in 1996."

[Full story](#)